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**"Mom, Dad and the State". Intergenerational Transmission of Education:  
European Trends**

König, Ronny

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# **ESA** RN13 Newsletter

Newsletter for the Research Network 13  
“Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives”  
within the European Sociological Association (ESA)

**No. 5**  
**October-December 2014**

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## **RN13 NEWS**

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What has happened in RN13 recently? In this section we want to keep you up-to-date about past events.

### **Invitation for Membership**

To those of you who are researching on family issues, but are not RN13 members until now: We want to invite you to join us! This will cost you only 10 Euros for two years on top of your ESA membership fee. But it will make you part of a European network which we want to enlarge and make (even) more active in the close future. Further, you will regularly receive this newsletter by e-mail.

Affiliation to RN13 can be done easily online at any time. If you are not an ESA member yet, you can sign up for RN13 membership together with signing up of ESA membership:

<http://www.europeansociology.org/member/>

If you already are an ESA member in good standing you can sign up for RN13 membership using the following link:

[http://www.europeansociology.org/membership\\_rn\\_affiliation/](http://www.europeansociology.org/membership_rn_affiliation/)

If you have forgotten your ESA ID or if you need any other information about your ESA member status please ask to the ESA secretary Gisèle Tchinda-Falcucci:

[esa@europeansociology.org](mailto:esa@europeansociology.org)

### **Upcoming Conferences / Call for Papers**

#### **12<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference 2015 in Prague**

The 12<sup>th</sup> ESA conference will take place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. The main theme of the conference is “Differences, Inequalities and Sociological Imagination.”

RN13 is going to organise two semi-plenaries with invited speakers as well as a large number of sessions to which proposals are welcome. The two semi-plenaries are called:

- “Family formation and practices of life quality: inequalities and new opportunities across Europe” and

- “Public policies and solidarity in women’s lives: differences and inequalities – Comparing regions of the world to feed sociological imaginations” (jointly organised with RN33 – Sociology of Women and gender studies).

The sessions organised by RN13 include three joint sessions:

- “Family dynamics, differences / convergences in gender roles; new inequalities and new opportunities” (joint session with RN33 – Sociology of Women and gender studies),
- “The emotional logic of family inequalities” (joint session with RN11 – Sociology of Emotions) and
- “Families and religions in contemporary society: different traditions and new relations” (joint session with RN34 – Sociology of Religion).

For the other sessions, sub-topics are suggested on the conference website (see second link below), however submissions are not limited to them. The Call for Papers is published since late November. Proposals can be submitted since December 8<sup>th</sup>. Abstract submission deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

[www.esa12thconference.eu](http://www.esa12thconference.eu)

<http://esa12thconference.eu/rn13-sociology-of-families-and-intimate-lives>

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## **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND CALL FOR PAPERS/CHAPTERS ON FAMILY AND INTIMATE LIVES**

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Here are some announcements regarding upcoming conferences and new publications on family issues.

### **Upcoming Conferences / Call for Papers**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> “Equal is not Enough” Conference in Antwerp (4.-6.2.2015)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> “Equal is not Enough” Conference will take place from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 in Antwerp (B), organised by the Policy Research Centre on Equality Policies. There will be a stream on the life course intended for family researchers.

<http://www.equalisnotenough.org>

#### **Symposium “Internal Migration and Commuting in International Perspective” in Wiesbaden (4.-6.2.2015)**

In February 2015 the *Federal Institute for Population Research* (BiB) in Wiesbaden (D) hosts an international symposium about “Internal Migration and Commuting in International Perspective”. It is organised by Stefanie Kley, Natascha Nisic (University of Hamburg), Norbert F. Schneider, and Heiko Rüger (BiB). The goal of this symposium is to promote research on two types of mobility: a change of residence over a socially meaningful distance (migration) and long-distance commuting between place of residence and place of work. Keynote speakers will be Maarten van Ham, Hill Kulu, Clara Mulder, Jos van Ommeren, and Michael Wagner. Full papers or extended abstracts must be submitted by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please

send your proposal (1-2 pages) for a contribution no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to one of the following organisers:

[stefanie.kley@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:stefanie.kley@uni-hamburg.de)

[natascha.nisic@wiso.uni-hamburg.de](mailto:natascha.nisic@wiso.uni-hamburg.de)

[heiko.rueger@bib.bund.de](mailto:heiko.rueger@bib.bund.de)

***Seminar “Individualisation, Internationalisation and Family Policy” in Dublin (20.-22.8.2015)***

This is an international seminar co-hosted by the School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin and the Research Committee on Family Research (RC06) of the International Sociological Association. It will take place between Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 in the purpose built, and state of the art building known as the Quinn School of Business, on the UCD Belfield campus.

Increased opportunities for individuals to exercise autonomy across the life cycle are transforming family life for parents and children and for single people without children. Individualisation also brings a new sense of agency for individuals within a plurality of family forms and therefore presents new challenges for demographic and family policy makers. This new sense of agency and family pluralism is allied to a decline in patriarchy, increased access to contraception and to changing patterns of fertility and demographic change. This seminar recognises the role of epistemic communities of research scholars in contributing to the development of knowledge about the nature of family pluralism and to support family policy transfers across the European Union and between advanced and emerging welfare states and welfare systems within and beyond the OECD. The seminar theme encompasses a wide range of potential research topics on families from sociological, demographic, historical, psychological and educational perspectives.

The organizers invite to participate in this event. Please submit abstracts to Michael Rush or Tony Fahey at the school of Applied Social Science, UCD. Deadline to submit a (300 word) abstract: January 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. Notification of the status of your submission: February 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. Registration: from 16<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

[michael.rush@ucd.ie](mailto:michael.rush@ucd.ie)

[tony.fahey@ucd.ie](mailto:tony.fahey@ucd.ie)

***Journal of Comparative Family Studies (JCFS)***

The Journal of Comparative Family Studies is inviting to propose manuscripts for its Special Issue to be published in 2016 as Vol. 47(1). The theme is “Reshaping Families in Northern Europe”. The focus is encapsulated in three keywords: Reshaping, Families and the Region and it is inclusive in regard to the subjects to be discussed as well as the variety of countries identified as laying in Northern Europe. We invite manuscripts that explore the increasing diversity of family forms, structures, relationships and thus unveil the dynamic links between families and the changing institutional contexts, power relations and cultural settings. Reshaping could be looked at from the perspective of everyday life interactions and family practices, reflect the newly emerging social phenomena, theorizing about lived

realities, the ways of sociological inquiry and language of doing research. The volume will be coedited by Irena Juozeliūnienė (Vilnius University) and Aušra Maslauskaitė (Vytautas Magnus University). Manuscripts should be submitted to the editors. Submission deadline for 250 word abstracts is 20 January 2015.

[irena.juozeliuniene@takas.lt](mailto:irena.juozeliuniene@takas.lt)

[a.maslauskaite@smf.vdu.lt](mailto:a.maslauskaite@smf.vdu.lt)

### ***Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research (CPFR)***

*Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research* is seeking manuscript submissions for its 2015 volume. The 2015 volume will focus on the theme of "Violence and Crime in the Family: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences." It will address topics such as: child abuse and neglect, spousal violence, marital rape, incarceration and parenting, community crime and family well-being, family life and delinquency, intrafamily violence, familial homicide, sexual abuse, parental kidnapping, and familicide. The volume will be coedited by Sheila Royo Maxwell (Michigan State University) and Sampson Lee Blair (University at Buffalo – The State University of New York). Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editors. The deadline for initial submissions is January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

[maxwel22@msu.edu](mailto:maxwel22@msu.edu)

[slblair@buffalo.edu](mailto:slblair@buffalo.edu)

### ***The European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology***

In 2014 a new journal of the European Sociological Association has been started: *The European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*. The journal has published a Call for Papers.

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/cfp/recpcfp.pdf>

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/recp20#.Uklk6dK-pNF>

## **New Publications on Family Issues**

In this section we want to announce new publications on family issues in English language, published or recommended by RN13 members.

### ***Books and Volumes***

- Bass, Loretta E. (2014): *African Immigrant Families in Another France*. Basingstoke / New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Eydal, Guðný Björk / Rostgaard, Tine (eds.) (2014): *Fatherhood in the Nordic Welfare states. Comparing care policies and practice*. Bristol: Policy Press.

### ***Journal and Volume Articles***

- Daniela Grunow / Nina Baur (2014): The Association between Norms and Actions. The Case of Men's Participation in Housework. in: *Comparative Population Studies* 39 (3): 521-558.

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## **A GLANCE INTO CURRENT EUROPEAN FAMILY RESEARCH**

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*by Ronny König, Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich (CH)*



**University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>**

### **“Mom, Dad and the State.”**

#### **Intergenerational Transmission of Education: European Trends.**

Equal access to education as a basic human right plays an essential role in individual as well as societal wealth. For the individual it secures equality of opportunities and constitutes the foundation of professional careers, lifetime income, health, and wellbeing over the whole lifecycle. On the aggregate country level, education and therefore human capital ensures technological development and thus economic wealth instead of poverty. However, even if the individual, the society, the economy, and the state benefit from an equal distribution of opportunities, huge educational gaps exist within countries. Although the relationship between social origin and educational and occupational achievements is an often discussed and widely researched topic in social science, little is so far known about the separate parental influence in inheritance of educational opportunities in a transnational and temporal perspective. Nevertheless, several studies indicate a trend toward a decreasing but still important link between social origin and educational attainment in European countries. Therefore, the purpose of this project is

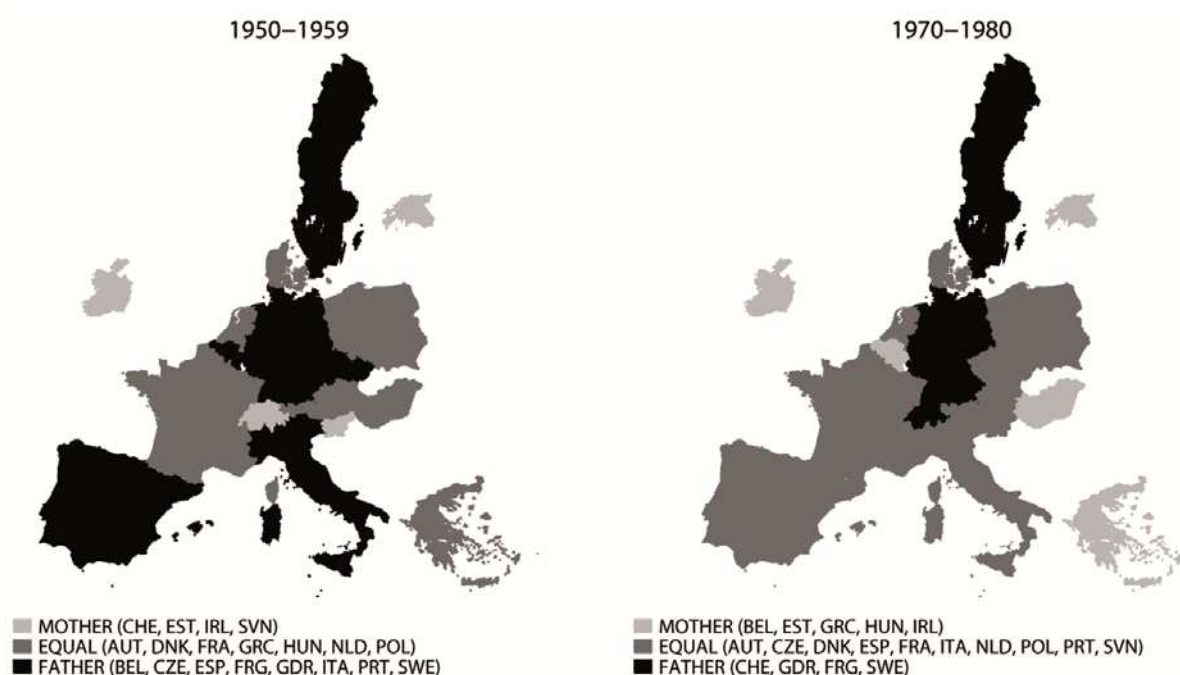
- (1) to examine the separate influences of mothers' and fathers' educational background on children's educational attainment and
- (2) to examine the effect of the social origin on children's outcomes in a temporal perspective.

The research is part of the project “Relations between Parents, Children, and Grandchildren in an Expanded European Context” of the Research Group AGES (LAbour, GEneration, Stratification) at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and grateful supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Current members are Ariane Bertogg, Bettina Isengard, Ronny König, Franz Neuberger, Klaus Preisner and Marc Szydlik (Head). Former members are Martina Brandt, Christian Deindl, Corinne Igel and Tina Schmid. The described analyses are furthermore embedded in the doctoral thesis “Education, Class and Solidarity in Europe” of Ronny König, which will be finished in summer 2015.

The analyses presented here are based on 19 countries<sup>1</sup> of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). A comparison of different birth cohorts (1950 to 1980) finds evidence for a general increase of educational levels in Europe – especially in the course of educational expansion. Despite this development, which is certainly positive, different patterns can be observed in each of the 19 countries. While the level of education, measured in virtual years, in all countries increased over time, this process is occurring on comparatively low levels in the Southern (Italy, Portugal and Spain) and Eastern (the Czech Republic and Poland) European countries.

Multivariate analyses for different age-groups also show the continual importance of the social origin and the reproduction of educational opportunities over generations in all societies. The estimates reveal that mothers' as well as fathers' education is still linked to the educational levels of their children, whereas the separate parental influences increasingly converge over time.

**Figure 1: Parental imprinting on children's education by birth cohort**



Data source: SHARE 2004-2012, N: 10,209 (cohorts 1950-1959) and 19,486 (cohorts 1970-1980), models under control of gender, number of siblings, birth order, parental age at birth, parental migration and living area, own calculations.

Generally, there are indications that the effect of mother's characteristics have increased while those of the father have decreased. In the oldest age group the proportion of countries showing stronger effects for father's education is higher than the proportion with stronger effects of mother's educational status. Contrary, in the

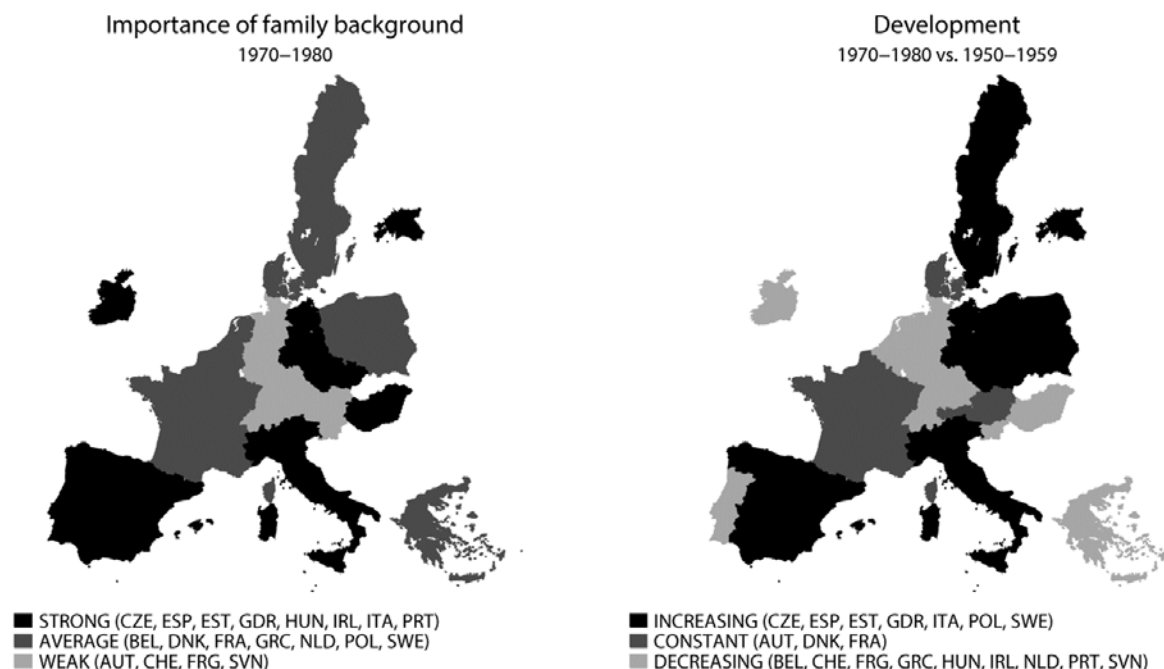
<sup>1</sup> These countries are Austria (AUT), Belgium (BEL), the Czech Republic (CZK), Denmark (DNK), Estonia (EST), France (FRA), East Germany (GDR), West Germany (FRG), Greece (GRC), Hungary (HUN), Ireland (IRL), Italy (ITA), the Netherlands (NLD), Poland (POL), Portugal (PRT), Slovenia (SVN), Spain (ESP), Sweden (SWE) and Switzerland (CHE).



youngest age group (born between 1970 and 1980) the correlation between mothers' education and children's outcome were either slightly stronger or comparable than for fathers' education. However, the analysis suggests that in many countries mothers' education meanwhile has a larger impact. Therefore, women's socioeconomic positions appear to have become more important on their children's educational attainment over time. In detail, the results indicate stronger maternal influences in Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Ireland, while there are stronger effects of father's education in Germany (East and West), France, Sweden and Switzerland.

The importance of the social origin differs between the countries: Strong dependencies can be found in the Czech Republic, Spain, Estonia, East Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Portugal. Contrary, in countries like Austria, West Germany, Switzerland and Slovenia the importance of the family background is weaker. Differences in the importance of the intergenerational inheritance of education do not correspond to any well-known grouping of countries. In general, it can be stated that as a result of the expansion of education the greater involvement of women in the labour market go along with a more equalized parental imprinting. Additionally, there are indications that the overall importance of the family background increases in terms of political instabilities and uncertain career prospects for juveniles and young adults.

**Figure 2: Importance of family background for children's education over time**



Data source: SHARE 2004-2012, N: 10,209 (cohorts 1950-1959) and 19,486 (cohorts 1970-1980), models under control of gender, number of siblings, birth order, parental age at birth, parental migration and living area, own calculations.

In summary, the empirical results have shown that promoting an equalization of educational opportunities among people of different social backgrounds has not yet



succeeded. Social inequalities are very difficult to eliminate, but governmental intervention can decrease the links between social origin and educational qualifications, while strengthening those between educational qualification and destination. The expansion of education, together with changes in the labour market as well as strategies to offer a more universal welfare state, have decreased but not eradicated out social inequalities.

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**CARTOON**

*Do you have contents for the next RN13 Newsletter (31 March 2015)?*

*Do you have new English publications on family issues?*

*Do you know about new English publications which you recommend reading?*

*Do you know about upcoming conferences or other events?*

*Would you like to share recent results in a short article?*

**Please contact [isabella.crespi@unimc.it](mailto:isabella.crespi@unimc.it) and [detlev.lueck@bib.bund.de](mailto:detlev.lueck@bib.bund.de).**

*The next deadline will be 15 March 2015.*